



SWS SOUTH ATLANTIC CHAPTER
Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia,
Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands



LUNCHEON MEETING NOTES

APRIL 11, 2002

Boone, North Carolina

Prepared by Ann Jennings

The SWS South Atlantic Chapter held a luncheon meeting during the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual conference in Boone, North Carolina, on April 11th. Meeting attendees included Ann Jennings, Frank Day, Paul Schmalzer, William Conner, Diane DeSteven, Gary Wein, William Tietjen, Werner Wieland, Rebecca Sharitz, C. Ross Hinkle, and Cliff R. Hupp.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer William Conner reported that the Chapter now has 879 members, down from 884 in 2001 and 892 in 2000. In March, the Chapter's Certificate of Deposit matured. The Executive Committee placed \$5,000 into checking and \$14,498.18 into a CD scheduled to mature in December. The Chapter's checking account balance is \$9,226.06 (this includes funds deducted for the Student Travel Awards).

Announcements:

1. Ann Jennings announced that Chapter member Jane Almon volunteered to coordinate the SWS display at the Wetland Hardwoods Restoration Workshop in March.
2. Ann Jennings announced the 4 students winning the Travel Awards: Aswini Pai, Brett McMillan, Alice Harper, and Mehmet Ozalp. (One student awardee was unable to attend the conference.) This year's Awards Committee consisted of Past-Chair Pat Megonigal, Jana Majer-Newman, and Sandy Williams. It was noted that the Executive Committee recently modified the Standing Rules altering the membership of Awards Committee – it will now consist of 2 Chapter members that do not hold a position on the Executive Committee. Guidelines for operation of the Student Travel Awards will be developed for discussion at the June business meeting of the Chapter. Cliff Hupp and Paul Schmalzer volunteered for the Awards Committee for 2002/2003 and to prepare draft guidelines. Chapter members discussed requiring future student awardees attend the Chapter's luncheon meeting. Also, members recommended that the Awards Committee members serve staggered 2-year terms to provide continuity. Each member will be responsible for nominating a replacement member.

Old Business:

Frank Day reported on several key issues from the mid-year SWS Board meeting. The (inter)national organization is changing management companies. The Board is also addressing its relationship with the certification (PWS) arm of SWS. PCP and SWS are required to be separate organizations, but both Boards are currently identical. The SWS Board is considering establishing a new, separate PCP Board, which will require its own elections. Also, the SWS Board is developing membership cards. As President, Frank will emphasize outreach of the organization to under-represented communities and internationally.

Ann Jennings reported on the success of the Chapter's Fall 2001 workshop held cooperatively with the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals. Chapter members discussed how to financially support local organizations that assist with Chapter workshops or conferences. Members discussed how (or whether) to provide \$2,500 to VAWP, as was discussed during the 2001 SAC business meeting. The Chapter members agreed to pay \$2,000 to VAWP (having covered \$500 of travel costs for one of the presenters). The only issue raised was to insure that the financial support is provided for assistance with the workshop and not for any other activities, such as lobbying. Ann Jennings offered to prepare draft guidelines on financial support of local cooperating organizations for discussion at the June business meeting.

New Business:

There was much productive discussion of the proposed fall, 2002 Chapter workshop. Chapter members agreed that a workshop on the Upper Saint Johns Basin restoration program by the Saint Johns Water Management District would be beneficial to SWS members and other professionals. This approach was suggested as providing inroads into the Florida water management districts and generating increased interest and activity in the Chapter. A proposed topic for the workshop was discussed, potentially -- freshwater wetland restoration at a landscape scale. Ross Hinkle will contact the Water Management District and then contact Ann Jennings to follow up.

Ann Jennings discussed the pending elections for Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. William Conner has agreed to continue as the Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations are needed for Vice Chair and should be provided to Pat Megonigal as soon as possible. Cliff Hupp indicated he would provide a nomination to Pat. It was reported that the Executive Committee recently modified the Standing Rules to clarify membership for the Nominations Committee. It will now consist of two members, the Past-Chair and one other Chapter member not serving on the Executive Committee.

The Chapter members discussed several ideas for increasing participation in Chapter meetings: 1) place a sticker on name tags at the annual SWS meeting indicating membership in the South Atlantic Chapter (use that to identify and encourage Chapter members to attend the business meeting); or 2) have the Chapter cover lunch expenses and/or provide a mixer or snacks. At the June Chapter business meeting, members suggested as an agenda item discussion of how to market the Chapter for fellow members and increase participation. Members suggested that the Chapter should consider spending some funding to encourage active participation.

Members also suggested that the Chapter consider establishing an award program for student travel to the national SWS meeting.